III. Montana's Heritage Properties: An Overview and Assessment

Montana Heritage Themes and Associated Resources

There are many – some would say limitless – ways to divide up the continuum of Montana's past into subject matters and the tangible resources that reflect these. The following list of heritage themes and associated resource types is taken, with revision and some addition, from the 1997 State Plan, *Working Together*. Two themes added to those in the 1997 Plan are *State and Local Government* and *Post World War II*. While it would be possible to construct more additional themes, those presented here serve the purpose of illustrating the range of properties in Montana and their historical significance.

The Land ~ Montana, the fourth largest state in the Union, boasts a landscape that is both diverse and dramatic, shaped by eons of mountain building and erosion and sculpted by glaciers, wind and rivers. It hosts the headwaters for the Missouri and Columbia river drainages and is rich in hard rock minerals, timber, grass lands, wildlife, oil & gas and coal. However, the landscape has not only been shaped by geologic forces, but by the people who have lived in and visited Montana for thousands of years. Though never densely populated, the state is rich in cultural environments associated with the history of human habitation and interaction with the landscape.

Associated resources. These typically large-scale resources include a variety of rural and urban cultural landscapes such as those associated with Indian sacred sites, e.g. the Sweet Grass Hills in north-central Montana; the mining landscape, e.g. Butte and Anaconda; and agricultural landscapes such as the Big Hole in Beaverhead County, the areas south of Billings and along the Hi-Line. They also include specific geological formations such as the Missouri River landmarks noted by Lewis and Clark during their epic journey of discovery in the beginning of the 19th Century.

Early Peoples ~ Human habitation in the region is thought to have begun about 12,000 years ago. Present scientific theories, constantly being revised with new evidence, place Montana directly in the path of one or more of the earliest migrations of humans into the New World from Eurasia. These earliest peoples and those that followed came to and lived in Montana, in search of and sustained by its rich wildlife, plant life and mineral resources. For the most part they followed the natural seasons and rhythms of life. Based upon archaeology, social and behavioral change were marked in centuries or even millennia with many cultural elements persisting over generations. These include the hunting of buffalo, the gathering of wild plants, the manufacture of stone and bone implements, and a settlement pattern based upon regular movement within a defined and familiar territory. Unlike most regions of North America, domesticated agriculture did not replace hunting and gathering as a way of life for Montana's prehistoric inhabitants. Various cultures existed across Montana in all environments over these millennia, some persisting and contributing more than others to the Indian tribes that existed here at the time of contact with Euro-Americans when written documents began (historic period).

Associated resources. These include prehistoric archaeological sites (12,000 B.P. to A.D. 200) of all types, including stone circle sites (tipi rings) located in many regions

of the State, but especially in the northern glaciated prairie-plains of the Hi-Line; open campsites with assemblages of stone and bone tools; rock art (pictographs and petroglyphs) such as those at Pictograph Cave east of Billings; numerous buffalo jumps and other kill sites like the Madison Buffalo Jump south of Three Forks, Wahkpa Chu'gn in Havre and Ulm Pishkun outside Great Falls; rock cairns and alignments; and chert and other toolstone quarries where stone tools were made.

Western American Expansion ~ The purchase of the Louisiana Territory from France by the United States in 1803 reflected the expansionist policy of the American people in the American West. It was this expansion, initiated with the Lewis and Clark Corps of Discovery expedition between 1804-1806 that resulted in the ultimate clash with Native cultures that irrevocably changed these and the way in which people lived and interacted with the landscape in Montana. Western American expansion was marked by a series of Euro-American expeditions surveying the people, resources, and travel routes in the "new" land. This period in Montana was also characterized by steamboat travel, the fur trade, missionaries like Pierre-Jean DeSmet, and the earliest ranching and gold mining discoveries.

Associated resource types. Resources, some known and some yet discovered and documented, include sites and portages along the routes of various expeditions beginning with those of Lewis and Clark (1805-1806); connections made to and from the Oregon Trail; resources associated with early cattle operations such as the Grant-Kohrs Ranch NHL in Deer Lodge; the first reported gold discovery made at Gold Creek; historic archaeological sites of fur trapping and trading activity such as Fort McKenzie, Fort Connah, Fort Manuel Lisa, Salish House, and early Fort Benton; Jesuit missions like St. Mary's and St. Ignatius; and the Mullan Military Road across the Continental Divide; as well as others.

Montana Territory ~ Following 60 years of Euro-American exploration and immigration, Montana was declared a territory of the United States on May 26, 1864. The majority of the non-Indian settlement in Montana at this time occurred in the southwestern part of the state. This was largely due to the discoveries of great mineral wealth – first gold, then silver and copper - in the region. Nine counties were established by the First Territorial Legislature including four in the southwest. Post-Civil war sympathies and politics played a major role in early territorial government and community life. The first schools in Montana were built in 1863 in Bannack and Virginia City, towns that also served as the Territory's first and second capitals, respectively. In 1878, eleven years prior to Montana's statehood, the Montana Collegiate Institute opened in Deer Lodge. Helena and Butte/Anaconda rose as major mining communities and rivals into the 1880s with mining magnates William A. Clark and Marcus Daly dominating the politics leading up to statehood in 1889. Steamboat travel on the Missouri and Yellowstone Rivers along with overland wagon and stagecoach roads supplied the territory with goods and people. Hardy, open-range stockmen – with sheep or cattle - ruled in the non-urban landscape. But it was the coming of the railroads in the 1880s that truly fostered widespread settlement of the region. Nonetheless, southwest Montana continued to maintain the largest segment of the state's population and was the center of political influence well into the twentieth century.

Associated resources. The territorial capitals, Bannack and Virginia City, and later Helena; the mining centers of Butte and Phillipsburg; urban mining support facilities such as mills, logging camps, charcoal and lime kilns; college buildings in Deer Lodge and other institutional buildings in the Deer Lodge Valley; the Bozeman trail; Fort Benton and other steamboat landings; early roads and stagecoach stops; the Northern Pacific and Great Northern railroads, and historic archaeological sites of the Montana Territorial Period are all examples of sites associated with this period and theme.

American Indian Culture (1800 to the present) ~ After millennia of evolving cultural tradition, the life of American Indian Peoples in Montana changed quickly and dramatically with the arrival of Euro-Americans in Montana at the dawn of the nineteenth century. Change had already begun before Lewis and Clark appeared on the scene, with the acquisition of horses and guns through trade and warfare with neighboring tribes who had already encountered the new European culture. At the time of contact, Montana exhibited a wealth of Indian culture, where semi-migratory tribes occupied expansive home territories, meeting and sharing traditions and innovations, while all the while creating changing rivalries and alliances with other tribes. Through the actions of the newest arrivals to Montana, and the government that represented them, this thriving Indian population was rapidly reduced through war, disease, forced relocation and the decimation of the bison on the Great Plains. The Great Sioux Wars of 1876-77 on the eastern plains and the Nez Perce retreat through western and central Montana in 1877 symbolize the fate of Indian resistance. Today, Montana's Indian communities (Assiniboine, Blackfeet, Crow, Chippewa-Cree, Northern Cheyenne, Kootenai, Salish, Sioux and others) live on seven reservations in the northwest, northern plains and southeastern regions of the state and about 40% live in off-reservation settings in a variety of Montana's cities and towns. Historically, the loss of traditional social institutions coupled with misguided federal policy has limited tribal reservation development; poverty continues to plague most Indian communities. The reservations themselves, subject to allotments under the Dawes Act of 1887, are checkerboards of land owned by the tribes, individual Indians, non-Indians, and state and federal agencies.

Associated resources. These include: traditional cultural and spiritual sites, including vision quest sites; scarred (cambium-peeled) trees in western Montana; historic Indian trails; wickiups and cribbed-log structures; St Mary's and St Ignatius missions; treaty localities such as Council Grove near Missoula and Council Island at the confluence of the Missouri and Judith Rivers; battlefields at the Big Hole, the Bear's Paw and the Little Big Horn (formerly, "Custer Battlefield"); Fort Assiniboine; the Nez Perce National Historic Trail; current and former Indian Agency locations such as the Blackfoot "Old Agency" north of Choteau; Chief Plenty Coups State Park; tribal historic community halls; Indian allotment homesteads; and many other distinctly Indian properties.

"Oro y Plata:" Hard Rock Mining in Montana ~ There are a number of legends regarding the discovery of gold in Montana. It is possible that early missionaries may have learned of the presence of gold from the Indians. Lewis and Clark and John Mullan make vague references to gold in their reports. The first record of a gold strike in Montana was in 1852 on Gold Creek (formerly Benetsee Creek) in the northeast corner of

Granite County. Subsequent larger strikes at Bannack and Virginia City were highly productive, but, like many "boom and bust" scenarios that followed, generally transitory. They were, however, extremely significant in that they opened up the territory, especially the western half to further exploration and settlement. Discoveries of gold and later silver established the town of Helena, which went on to win the fight to become the State Capitol in 1889. Copper mining at Butte made it the largest copper provider in the U.S. by 1887. Many ancillary facilities contributed to the mining industry, including smelting and refining facilities constructed in Anaconda, East Helena and Great Falls to process ore. Hard rock mining activity, particularly in the larger urban industrial centers, also provided an important catalyst for calling attention to the plight of American workers. The role that labor organizations played in the mining industry in Montana is nationally significant. Through the first half of the 20th century, the Anaconda Mining Company, its subsidiaries and partners, including the Montana Power Company, dominated the state's mining economy and in doing so, much of its politics. At the same time, smaller operations associated with other mining districts have always played a role in historic hard rock mining across much of the western part of the State for the extraction of a variety of metals for industrial, commercial and military (strategic) uses. Hard rock mining activities continue to be an important, if cyclical, part of the Montana economy to the present day.

Associated Resources. There are literally thousands of sites in the west half of Montana associated with hard rock mining activity. These not only include the mines and mills themselves, but the communities that housed the miners and a myriad of support services, cultural and social institutions. Virginia City, arguably the best-preserved Gold Rush town in the west, and Bannack, a ghost town managed by Montana Fish, Wildlife, and Parks, are both designated as National Historic Landmarks. Butte also boasts being the largest National Historic Landmark in the nation, with themes of both mining and, more recently, labor history. Other properties include a variety of abandoned (i.e. historic archaeological) mining sites and districts in the Beaverhead-Deerlodge, Helena and Gallatin National Forests, mining towns such as Phillipsburg and Anaconda, and numerous buildings associated with Montana's mining magnates, including the Montana Club in Helena, Butte's Copper King Mansion and the Marcus Daly Mansion in Hamilton.

Timber ~ Of the state's 93 million land acres, more than 22 million are forested. In 1899 alone, Montanans harvested 255 thousand feet of lumber. In the late 19th century, the majority of timber related activity was driven by the needs of the growing mining industry. The first recorded commercial sawmill was erected at Bannack in July of 1862. Following the early mining rush, the timber industry waned for some time. However, the industry was revived with the discovery of copper and the coming of railroads. The smelting process required massive amounts of lumber for fuel. The demand for railroad ties was enormous as well, not only for railroad construction but for the miles of mining rail systems underground. By 1910, the Anaconda Copper Mining Company controlled over a million acres of timberland. As communities grew in the late 19th Century and early 20th Century, the demand for construction timber also increased. With the exception of large timber resources in the far western and northwest regions of the state, however, the majority of timber harvested elsewhere in Montana was primarily for local

use. After waning in the 1930s Depression, a second timber "boom" occurred during and especially after World War II, with the nationwide demand for construction materials. Historically, the forest products industry has been a vital, if sometimes environmentally controversial, part of the Montana economy. The role of the Forest Reserves and later the U.S.D.A. Forest Service in managing public forest land has been especially important.

Associated Resources. These range from company mill towns such as Bonner and Libby to timber management and research sites such as that in the Forestry school at the University of Montana. Specific site types reflecting the timber industry are historic sawmills, lumber yards, teepee burners, and retail wood supply outlets. Many historic timber-extractive and management resources exist on public forest land including historic trails, logging camps, logging railroads, lookouts, cabins and other Forest Service facilities. The Alta Guard Station near Hamilton is the oldest building in Montana constructed by a federal land managing agency (Forest Reserves), dating to 1899.

Agriculture and Homesteading ~ By the end of the 1870's, thousands of head of cattle and sheep had been driven into Montana. This resulted in a problem of overstocking that was exacerbated by a drought in the 1880's and a particularly bad winter in 1886-87. These events led to the end of the "open range" in many western and southwestern regions as ranchers began to build fences and provide hay to the animals in the winter in the west. Larger cattle companies shifted to central and eastern Montana where large open ranges remained. In addition, ranchers increasingly made use of rail transportation to ship cattle to markets. The state produced more than $4 million worth of wool in 1900 and by 1910 there were more than 490 thousand beef cattle on Montana ranges worth more than $27 million. The Homestead Acts of 1862 and 1909 and the Desert Land Act of 1877 provided land to settlers east of the mountains for a nominal fee and the promise to reside on the land and cultivate it for a period of five years. These programs reflected the desire of the Federal government to keep land ownership in the hands of many rather than under the control of a few large land barons. However, the arid and harsh climate doomed these small homesteads to failure. Those that were able to weather the difficult times generally acquired larger tracts of land to make their farms more profitable. Many others left the state and their homesteads behind.

Associated Resources ~ In total, agriculture is Montana's number one industry today and sites depicting its history are critical to understanding this mainstay of Montana's economy. The agricultural landscape is perhaps the most dominant in Montana. Montana's ranches and farms often host early structures from earlier eras, and they can be publicly seen at the Grant Kohrs Ranch NHS in Deer Lodge or by appointment at the Kleffner Ranch near Helena. Cowboy and ranching lore are commemorated at such events as the bucking horse sale in Miles City and annual cattle drives near Roundup and Billings. Coarse-laid stone sheepherder monuments stand on hilltops in open valleys. Grain elevators, barns, and homesteads (abandoned and still in use) all across eastern and central Montana are dramatic reminders of the homesteader families who settled there. Homesteader towns like Shelby, Chester, Geraldine, and Joliet continue to serve as centers for service and commerce on the rural farming landscape. Beaver slides, developed by ranchers in the Big Hole Valley to stack hay, are

still in use in large areas of Southwest Montana and are uniquely characteristic of the agricultural landscape in that region of the state.

Coal and Oil/Gas ~ Coal-bearing areas are widely scattered across central and eastern Montana, occupying 35% of the state's total area. The five most outstanding seams are located in the Bull Mountain, Red Lodge, Great Falls, Eastern Lignite and Eastern Sub-bituminous regions. Early coal mining began during the 1860s gold rushes, but significant development came with the railroads. Coal was needed to operate the steam powered railroad locomotives, for residential heating and later to generate electricity at large coal fire facilities. Underground coal mining dominated the Red Lodge-Bear Creek area while at Colstrip, the Northern Pacific Railroad first opened the 28 ft. wide Rosebud coal seam of the Fort Union Formation by strip-mining in the early 1920's. The coal industry slumped, like many others, in the 1930s but revived during WW II. Montana's worst coal mining disaster occurred in 1943 when seventy miners died at the Smith Mine near Red Lodge. In the early 1960's, it was estimated that there was 222 billion tons of minable coal in Montana, leading all states in coal reserves. While the first significant oil field was opened in 1915 at Elk Basin in Carbon County, until 1951 most of Montana's commercial oil and gas fields were located in a strip 100 to 150 miles wide, paralleling the Rocky Mountain Front. New technologies developed in the late 1940s enabled deeper drilling to reach oil in other locations across the state, especially the Williston Basin in northeast Montana. This second oil and gas boom established Billings as the center of Montana's petroleum industry and its emerging status as the states major concentration of population.

Associated Resources. The communities of Colstrip, Red Lodge, Roundup, Forsyth, Miles City, and other sites in Carbon, Rosebud, Big Horn, Powder River, Mussellshell, Treasure and Yellowstone Counties provide sites associated with coal mining. The American Federation of Miners cemetery near Roundup demonstrates the ethnic diversity of the people who came to work in the coal mines of eastern Montana. Sites east of the Rocky Mountain Front including areas around Sunburst, Oilmont, Shelby, Choteau and Cutbank depict the oil industry in the first half of the 20th Century. Glendive, Sidney, Wibaux, and Billings host oil-related properties after 1950.

The Federal Government in Montana ~ The involvement of the Federal Government in Montana has been extremely significant. It can be said to have begun in 1805-1806 with the Lewis and Clark expedition ordered by President Jefferson that covered more miles in Montana than any other state. The U.S. military continued to play a pivotal role in the American settlement of Montana with the control and removal of tribes to reservations in the nineteenth century and with developments in the 20th century in conjunction with World Wars I and II as well as the Cold war that followed. Federal government involvement in the management of Montana land is even more pervasive. Riding a wave of conservation, Yellowstone was declared the first National Park in 1872, and in 1890, President Benjamin Harrison organized a commission to investigate the need for the protection of public lands. This led to the passage of a series of Acts over the next century which set aside large sections of land for public use and enjoyment and for the protection of watershed and animal habitat. Today, almost 30% of Montana's lands are in federal ownership. In many counties, public land holdings amount to 70% of the total

land mass of which 90% is managed by the U.S. Forest Service and the Bureau of Land Management. In addition to public land management, the Federal government initiated a number of historic large scale projects that have had a lasting effect on Montana. Between 1904 and 1906, the Bureau of Reclamation began construction on several regional irrigation projects, including the Huntley Project east of Billings and the Milk River Project in northern Montana. In 1933, President Franklin Roosevelt established the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) as part of his New Deal. Directed by the Forest Service and the U.S. Army, the CCC employed 25,000 young men in Montana. The construction of the Fort Peck Dam on the Missouri River during the mid 1930's was one of the largest of the Depression era public works programs. The U.S. Department of Agriculture established the cooperative extension through Montana State College (Montana State University, Bozeman) and the Agricultural Experiment Stations Act of 1955 authorized the appropriation of federal funds to support the development of those stations across the state - many of which remain active today though their historic buildings are at risk under a policy of progress through demolition.

Associated Resources. These include: numerous 19th century frontier military forts, posts and battlefields as well as the state's 20th century bases, airfields, and other national defense facilities, including missile silos; U.S. Forest Service facilities including the first forest ranger cabin in the United States, located at Alta in the Bitterroot National Forest; Bureau of Reclamation irrigation projects at Huntley, Lower Yellowstone, Milk River and Sun River; the Fort Peck Dam and other dam sites; CCC constructed roads, bridges and buildings; various agriculture extension stations, most now managed by Montana State University; United States Postal Service offices; federal courthouses and many other federal institutions built during the second half of the19th and first half of the 20th, including the Old Territorial Prison at Deer Lodge and the Rocky Mountain Laboratory in Hamilton.

State and Local Government ~ On November 8, 1889, President Harrison formally proclaimed Montana the 41st state of the Union, ending twenty-five years as a Territory. In a still disputed vote led by mining interests, Helena was established as the State Capitol, with construction of the Capitol building beginning in the late 1890s. Other early primary state institutions were equally vied for and distributed along political lines including the state's university (Missoula), agricultural college (Bozeman), and normal school (Dillon), as well as the school for the deaf (Boulder), and mental hospital (Warm Springs). In the years that followed statehood, the state has contributed greatly to the built environment all across Montana in the form of state institutions, parks, fish hatcheries and other facilities. The New Deal Era of the 1930s saw not only the influx of federal projects but also the support of and ballooning of the state's bureaucracy. In the early years of statehood, Montana was made up of a couple dozen counties, including several very large counties in the eastern part of the state. "County-splitting" fever during the boom years of homesteading between 1910-1925 resulted in a doubling of that number, leading ultimately to the present total of 56. Establishment of county seats in each of these local governments resulted in significant public constructions in these towns, not the least of which are courthouses, some of which date back to the Territorial Period. While not characterized by especially dense concentrations of populations, city

governments and public works also have greatly influenced the look of Montana's urban communities.

Associated Resources. Included are: the recently restored State Capitol in Helena; state universities and colleges; other state institutions; fish hatcheries; state park visitor facilities; wildlife management areas; county courthouses; jails; fire-stations; schools, libraries; and more.

Transportation ~ The earliest non-Indian visitors to Montana - the fur trappers and explorers - made use of existing Indian and animal trails. Freight transportation routes were largely focused on waterways, dominated by steamboat travel up the Missouri River to Fort Benton. However, once gold was discovered in the 1850's and 60's and immigration to Montana increased, overland travel and later railroads dealt fatal blows to the river transportation industry. With the celebrated completion of the Northern Pacific railroad at Gold Creek in 1883 and the entry soon after of the Great Northern Railway into Great Falls in 1887, it marked the end of extensive river transportation. Efforts to discover inland waterways to link America were abandoned and survey efforts were directed to the building of roads and rail beds to connect local communities to each other and to the rest of the nation. The Burlington and the Milwaukee railroads followed the earlier tracks. The need for better wagon roads from the United States to Montana Territory also increased as more immigrants moved westward. At first the settlers traveled by pack trains, then switched to wagon trains, each wagon capable of carrying from five to sixteen thousand pounds. When gold was discovered in Montana, settlers from the south left the Oregon Trail and turned north to Montana ultimately establishing the Bozeman and Bridger Trails leading to Virginia City and Bannack. Lt. John Mullan established the first really improved road through difficult terrain over the Rocky Mountains in 1858-1860. From Minnesota, expeditions were conducted by Captain James Fisk to develop travel routes through Fort Benton to Bannack by way of Johnny Grant's ranch in the Deer Lodge Valley. Automobile travel in the first half of the 20th century revolutionized road and bridge building, establishing the historic network of routes and transportation structures that still exist today.

Associated Resources. The Montana Department of Transportation has taken the lead in identifying hundreds of historic transportation related sites including bridges, roads, as well as railroads and associated facilities throughout the State. Resources include: train depots; substations; abandoned and active railroad corridors and grades; the Bozeman Trail/Road; various sites along the Mullan Road; ferry crossings; stage stations; and historic automobile highways such as Highway 2 and the Going to the Sun Road NHL in Glacier National Park. Livingston, Laurel, Havre, and Whitefish are examples of communities which were supported by large scale railroad repair and switching facilities.

Community Building ~ The cultures and traditions of the immigrants who came to Montana in the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries were manifested in the communities they created. Major communities were developed in association with resource extraction - timber, mining and agriculture - and at access points to transportation systems. Many of these communities, especially those associated with the "boom and bust" economy of mining, started and failed becoming ghost towns, while just as many others matured into stable multi-service centers. Typically, permanent human

settlement occurred along the rivers and valley bottoms. These same sites often coincided with transportation corridors -- trails, freight roads and railroads -- to permit the easy transport of goods and people to and from each community. Small town Montana Main Streets were often located along or perpendicular to rail lines and boast large grain elevators adjacent to rail stations. Buildings – first constructed hastily in wood and then later replaced by brick and stone - housed a variety of fraternal organizations, women's protective societies, churches, banks, stores and other services. Successful entrepreneurs soon built extravagant homes while workers lived in more modest dwellings, some of which were constructed by the companies that employed them. Successful retail establishments, located in commercial districts, served a variety of workers and their families who lived in town and also supported area ranchers and farmers who came to town to purchase supplies and ship their goods. Evolved communities added cultural amenities including libraries, music halls and theatres.

Associated Resources. Many of Montana's community Main Streets, neighborhoods and industrial areas still appear as they have throughout the 20th Century. Lewistown, Helena, Livingston, Red Lodge, Glendive, Missoula, Hamilton, Bozeman and other Montana communities host intact, thriving urban historic residential and commercial districts. Butte features a mixture of industrial, residential and commercial buildings - including remnants of its notorious red light district - in close proximity to each other reflecting the mining town's distinct pattern of development over a period of 100 years. Masonic Temples, magnificent religious buildings including synagogue buildings in Butte and Helena, the Helena Cathedral and the Catholic Church at Laurin, and Hutterite colonies in north-central Montana commemorate the state's cultural diversity reflected in community architecture. The Moss, Conrad, Daly and Clark Mansions and the "Castle" at White Sulphur Springs provide good examples of the wealth that was amassed in the State and displayed in residential building.

Tourism and Recreation ~ While short-term human visitors have come to Montana for thousands of years, the tourism industry as we know it today dates primarily from the late nineteenth century with the creation of Yellowstone Park in 1872. Although the majority of the Park is in Wyoming, visitors generally arrived there historically from the Montana entrances creating growth in the railroad hub communities of Livingston and West Yellowstone. The addition of Glacier Park in 1910 added to the attractiveness of Montana as a destination for national and international travelers. The railroads played a key role in the development of Montana's tourism industry with both the Northern Pacific and the Milwaukee Road promoting Yellowstone Park and other Montana sights as a destination for their passengers. The railroads built elaborate hotels and lodging facilities in the National Parks, along rail lines near the entrances to the Parks and in gateway communities. Turn-of-the-century resorts and spas developed at hot springs in southwestern Montana, including at Boulder and Hot Springs and the no longer extant Broadwater Hotel & Natatorium in Helena. From 1900 to 1910, tourists spent an average of $500,000 a year in Montana. Beginning in 1910, tourism took another turn with the advent of the automobile. New roadside motels, campgrounds and restaurants were built to accommodate the new motorized public, and the old downtown hotels and railroad resorts began to suffer. By 1915 the authorities in Yellowstone were permitting automobiles to enter at West Yellowstone, Montana. Dude ranches flourished in this period with

over a hundred in operation by 1930. The Depression and World War II notwithstanding, the tourism "industry" has gained steadily in Montana catering to out-of-state (as well as in-state) hunters, fishermen, hikers, skiers and sightseers – including heritage tourists – alike. Presently, nearly 8 million visitors come to Montana every year making tourism the state's second largest industry.

Associated Resources. These include: grand stylized lodges built by the railroad in association with National Parks; Glacier National Park's unique system of back country chalets; hot springs resorts; scenic roads and their associated landscapes; early motor courts, gas stations and drive-in businesses; facilities associated with sites and attractions such as the visitor facilities at Lewis and Clark Caverns; dude ranches; hunting and fishing lodges; local arts and crafts businesses; and historic hotels such as the Grand Union in Fort Benton, the Graves Hotel in Harlowton and the Finlen in Butte.

Post World War II ~ In the ten years or so following WW II, Montana prospered as did most of the nation. Montana wheat and beef were in high demand and at generally high prices in these post-war boom years, supporting the economies of large Montana farms and ranches. Beginning in the early 1950s, the Anaconda Mining Company's switch to open-pit mining at the Berkeley Pit began to transform Butte – physically, politically, and psychologically. At the same time in western Montana, the lumber industry grew dramatically in response to nationwide construction. In 1957 Hoeriver Boxes and Waldorf Paper Products Companies opened a large pulp mill outside of Missoula creating hundreds of new jobs. The discovery of and technology to access the deep oil field in the Wiliston Basin in northeast Montana launched the state's second oil & gas boom and the rise of Billings as a petroleum and population center. The Yellowstone Pipeline linking Billings with Spokane was completed in 1954. Montana Power Company rose to prominence in Montana affairs with its development of hydroelectric facilities, coal mines, and transmission lines. Federal and state government also contributed to Montana's growth after WW II with significant developments involving public lands, institutions, and national defense. Not all Montanans benefited from this period of prosperity; Montana's Indian population, for example, continued to be subjected to poverty and poor policy decisions. All told, however, it was a period of growth and building during which the state's population increased 10% and in 1950 its per capita income actually stood 8% above the national average.

Associated Resources. Applying the "50 year rule," the inventory of Montana's historic resources of the recent past has just begun. It will undoubtedly begin with buildings, structures, sites, districts and objects associated with the industrial, business and residential growth following WW II. In addition, properties of exceptional significance but less than 50 years old have already begun to be considered, including "Mission 66" architecture in Montana's National Parks and Cold War military nuclear deterrents such as the still active defense system surrounding Great Falls that figured prominently in the Cuban Missile Crisis.

State of the State Inventory

According to records managed by SHPO in partnership with the University of Montana, Department of Anthropology, there are 40, 417 recorded cultural resource properties in

Montana as of this writing. Approximately 40% of these are historic period properties (including historic archaeological sites), while 60% are prehistoric properties, reflecting in part the origins of the state inventory in the Smithsonian Institution River Basin prehistoric archaeological surveys of the 1950s. Each year over the past 10 years, approximately 1,000 to 1,500 new properties are added to the state inventory, with the number of historic sites catching up to that of prehistoric.

Each recorded property represents a site, structure, or building and some are districts comprised of many individual buildings, such as community historic residential districts with 500 or more houses. Consequently, the number of recorded individual cultural resource entities is actually greater by perhaps an order of 20% or more, i.e. approximately 50,000 cultural resources statewide. Nonetheless, many known historic, prehistoric, and traditional cultural properties are still not included in this total – including some very famous historic buildings or historic and prehistoric archaeological sites – simply by virtue of the fact that an inventory form has never been completed and registered in the system.

Among recorded prehistoric site types in Montana, archaeological lithic scatters predominate (11,713), followed by stone circle/tipi ring sites (4,968) and rock cairns (2,761). Lithic scatters are a generic archaeological site form referring to a concentration of intentionally chipped stone pieces, mostly detritus produced from the process of manufacturing, using and maintaining stone tools. Ubiquitous to Montana, most lithic scatters require professional archaeological analysis and sometimes subsurface testing to determine their age (if possible) and whether they represent former habitations, places where raw materials were acquired, or some other form of special use locality. The age and function of many lithic scatters, nonetheless, remains indeterminable using current scientific techniques. Tipi rings are most common east of the Continental Divide and are especially prevalent on the glaciated prairie-plains of northern Montana. They represent former habitation locations. While some may be as old as 3,000 or even 4,000 years, most are thought to be less than 2,000 years old. Much has been written about the research significance of these stone circle sites and, while they continue to be a lively source of professional debate, they also represent the most widely recognized prehistoric site by the general public. Cairns, some simple piles of rocks and others careful constructions, are also common across Montana. Their age and meaning are very difficult to determine in most cases. Possible functions of prehistoric cairns include event, location and trail markers, caches, and traps; a very few cairns have been associated with burials. Among other well-known types of prehistoric or possibly early historic Indian sites in Montana, there are 231 buffalo jumps, 120 bedrock quarries, and 596 rock art sites currently recorded in the statewide inventory. Some rare prehistoric site types in Montana include pithouses, sites that can be definitively associated with fishing, and medicine wheels. Also relatively rare, less than a hundred recorded prehistoric sites have been associated with the earliest period of human occupation, between 12,000 – 7,500 years ago.

Given their relative recentness and familiarity, historic period properties in the state inventory are more readily recognized as to age and purpose than prehistoric sites.

Recorded properties range from CCC camps to ferry landings to historic mining remnants to schools and grain elevators. They include standing in-use buildings and structures as well as historic archaeological sites, and some properties that are both. The three most common recorded historic property types are: mining sites (2862), many of which are abandoned, i.e. historical archaeological sites; railroad, stage and other transportation-related properties, including bridges (2099); and rural homesteads/farmsteads (1247), many that also exist now only as historic archaeological sites. Records also exist for over 200 historic districts and approximately 1000 individually documented historic residences. Most historic-age properties in the state inventory are associated with long continuous periods of use; only twenty-five have been identified as predominantly pre-1860 and about three hundred are associated directly with Montana's Territorial Period (1860-1889). The large majority of recorded historic sites were constructed after Montana achieved statehood in 1889, with the most often cited decade being 1930-1939.

A subset of the state inventory, 993 Montana properties have been listed in the ***National Register of Historic Places***, including 32 recognized as National Historic Landmarks. About one hundred of these listed properties are historic districts comprised of anywhere from 10 to 700 contributing buildings and structures - for example the recently listed (2002) University Residential Historic District in Missoula with over 650 contributing houses. Adding contributing buildings and structures, there are probably closer to 4,000 or 5,000 individual cultural resources listed in the National Register of Historic Places. Only a handful of these National Register listed properties are prehistoric sites, including two National Historic Landmarks: the Hagan Site, a rare earth lodge village in Dawson County and Pictograph Cave outside Billings, arguably the first scientifically excavated prehistoric archaeological site in Montana. This is not a statement of the significance of prehistoric sites; rather it probably reflects the lack of tangible benefits afforded the listing of archaeological sites (especially prehistoric, but also historic period) and concerns for their safety in anonymity. At least two Montana properties have been listed in the past five years as traditional cultural places important to Indian communities: Annashisee Iisaxpuatahcheeaashisee (Bighorn River Medicine Wheel) in Big Horn County and Sleeping Buffalo Rock in Phillips County. The remainder of Montana's National Register listed properties are historic period, primarily Euroamerican sites. Ranging from the Eureka Community Hall in Lincoln County to the Bell Street Bridge in Glendive, Dawson County, these listed historic properties span the state, its history, and the various heritage themes described above.

Beyond those officially nominated and accepted for listing in the National Register of Historic Places, an additional 598 properties in the Montana state inventory have been formally determined eligible for listing by the Keeper of the Register (National Park Service) and 3163 determined eligible through consensus between SHPO and a federal or state agency. Although lacking for the most part the level of documentation required of nominated properties, these eligible sites are treated as if they were listed in the National Register for the purposes of compliance with federal and state preservation laws. Also, unlike those actually in the Register, these properties only found eligible include many prehistoric sites in addition to historic and traditional cultural places. Together, the approximately 4,750 properties found eligible or listed constitute 12% of the state

inventory and represent an excellent cross-section and characterization of what constitute Montana's significant prehistoric, historic, historic archaeological, and traditional cultural places.

It is difficult to say how many other historic and prehistoric properties – both known and unknown – remain to be added to the statewide inventory. However, to the extent that this is reflected by the amount of survey (i.e., intensive reconnaissance) to identify properties that has occurred, the answer is probably a lot. Survey records housed at the SHPO document 3,915,542 acres of intensive inventory – a lot to be sure, but just scratching the surface when measured against the 92,983,695 acres of land in Montana! Of course much of this un-inventoried land surface may have a low probability of containing cultural resources. Yet the fact remains that relatively little (4.2%) of the state can be said to have been looked at with an eye towards identifying and recording the state's heritage properties.

Moreover, the rate of survey is such that it will be a long time before many properties are recorded. Again according to SHPO records, between 75,000 to 100,000 acres of new survey have occurred in each of the last five years since 1997. As previously recognized in 1997, most of this survey continues to be undertaken in response to regulatory requirements associated with actions that are permitted or required by federal and state agencies - like timber sales, land exchanges, and oil & gas development (e.g., Section 106 compliance). The U.S. Forest Service and the Bureau of Land Management easily account for the most survey reconnaissance in the state, both in the number of inventories and total acreage. Each of these agencies has conducted over 1 million total acres of documented survey (i.e., half of all recorded inventory statewide). Thus, reaction to projects rather than a conscious initiative to discover and record cultural resource properties continues to be the norm in Montana, resulting in many known properties or known areas of high probability for properties remaining undocumented, especially on private and undeveloped land. Counteracting this trend in recent times have been a certain number of "Section 110" inventories by federal land managing agencies made possible in part because of "streamlined" review and compliance procedures that have freed up limited time and dollars. In 2001-2002, SHPO was also able to reinitiate its program of funding targeted community surveys (in Missoula and Great Falls) following an increase in appropriated federal funds for the states in FY2001 and FY2002. As of this writing, however, this increase in federal funding is not expected to continue.

Resource Condition/Resources at Risk

In 1997, the condition of resources in the state was described as "fair to poor with some notable exceptions" (*Working Together*, 1997, pg. 18). The exceptions noted were buildings and some other structures for which funds were available for maintenance or restoration through concession income, community revitalization grants and loans, or as a result of federal management. In the case of most historic properties, however, conditions were viewed as generally negative or at least threatening, citing a number of detrimental factors in particular: deterioration, vandalism, changing land use, lack of local monetary support, loss of oral history, and the sheer number of potential resources

in need, for example in the case of pre-1940s houses. The story for prehistoric sites was considered more difficult to ascertain but the threats nonetheless the same or similar: residential development in rural areas, recreational use of open space, vandalism, and impacts from both natural resource extraction and land reclamation. In addition, it was pointed out that the anonymity of archaeological sites (both prehistoric and historic) makes it difficult to rally support for their protection.

Five years later, in 2002, the diagnosis for cultural resources in the state has arguably not changed significantly – with again some notable exceptions:

Success Stories. Some important developments in historic preservation have occurred since 1997 that have had a positive impact not only on specific properties, but, through example, for Montana's cultural resources in general. Not least among these was the state purchase of numerous historic properties and their associated artifact collections in Virginia and Nevada Cities, saving them from auction and almost certain loss to out-of-state buyers. At the time that the last State Plan was being drafted in 1996, the future of Virginia City - described by many as the best preserved Gold Rush town in the West - and Nevada City – an assembled collection of over 80 historic buildings salvaged from across the state beginning in the 1940s by Charles Bovey – was uncertain and of great concern to many who commented in the planning process. Through strong public encouragement and Legislative action in 1997, the Bovey buildings in Virginia and Nevada Cities and all their contents were purchased by the state and the Montana Heritage Commission established to manage these properties *and others that may be acquired in the future*. Though under-funded, the Montana Heritage Commission in partnership with the local community and the Montana Historical Society has made great strides in the preservation of both Virginia and Nevada Cities for the benefit of all Montanans.

Equally important as a symbol for state historic preservation, the restoration of the State Capitol in Helena - with significant contributions from the private sector - was completed in 2001, just in time for its 2002 centennial re-dedication. Also, Anschutz Mining Corporation, in an example of corporate responsibility and acknowledgement in the face of international public pressure, released its BLM oil and gas leases in the Weatherman Draw. Weatherman Draw, aka Valley of the Shields, is home to hundreds of fragile pictographs of outstanding archaeological and Indian traditional cultural significance. Glacier National Park began long-awaited renovation of Many Glacier Hotel and has developed a plan for rehabilitation of Going-to-the-Sun Road that is sensitive to its nationally significant cultural landscape. Anticipation of the Lewis and Clark Bicentennial in 2004-2005 has spawned a host of visible preservation projects with cooperative national, federal, state, and local support. These include combined efforts to redefine Traveler's Rest NHL in Lolo, the establishment of the USDA Forest Service administered Lewis and Clark Interpretive Center in Great Falls, ongoing plans by the Bureau of Land Management to build visitor centers at Pompeys Pillar and Fort Benton NHLs, and U.S. Forest Service preparations of Lolo Trail and Lemhi Pass for increased visitor use. At the state level, Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks has initiated development planning for several Lewis and Clark related state parks and the Montana

Lewis & Clark Bicentennial Commission exists to coordinate and provide financial assistance to local community efforts. These local Lewis and Clark "chapter" efforts have resulted in new interpretive signage and programs as well as the identification and recognition of new sites, such as Yorks Islands and Crimson Bluffs outside Townsend in Broadwater County, the latter recently acquired for preservation by the Bureau of Land Management.

Other less high profile, but no less innovative, efforts in historic preservation also have occurred over the past five years. The U.S. Forest Service's Region 1 Cabin Rental Program has reached a stage of maturity and now includes 97 historic buildings – mostly log structures – that are fully accessible to the public, often interpreted within their historic context, and most importantly, generating their own revenue to pay for continued maintenance and upkeep. The Helena National Forest reclaimed mining waste at Charter Oak Mine and Mill without removal of its intact historically significant buildings and structures, saving these instead for public interpretation and education. Both the U.S. Forest Service and the Bureau of Land Management have stepped up monitoring of historic, historic archaeological and prehistoric sites on public lands as part of programmatic approaches to cultural resource compliance. The City of Butte, with support from the NPS National Historic Landmark program and SHPO, initiated a revision of the Butte NHL to add the history of the labor movement to its already nationally recognized significant mining history. The Friends of the Little Bighorn battlefield received a 2002 grant from the NPS American Battlefield Protection program to research and nominate battlefields of the Great Sioux War (1876-1877) to the National Register. The City of Great Falls, driven by support from Preservation Cascade, first saved the historic Tenth Street Bridge from demolition and are now actively restoring this nationally significant structure as a pedestrian walkway over the Missouri River. The Montana Department of Transportation has successfully rehabilitated rather than replaced several other historic bridges and has listed a variety of its properties in the National Register of Historic Places. In 2002 the Town of Ekalaka applied for and received support from the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) program to conduct professional survey and evaluation prior to making decisions regarding the use of these funds for the demolition of historic homes and buildings. And, a dozen owners of historic buildings listed in the National Register of Historic Places matched funds made newly available in 2001 and 2002 from the SHPO to undertake "bricks-n-mortar" repairs, restorations and renovations of their properties across the state.

Ongoing Risks. These and other success stories notwithstanding, the risks to and needs of many Montana historic, prehistoric, and traditional cultural properties have not abated. When asked in planning questionnaires for this Plan about kinds of properties meriting special attention over the next five years, a majority of respondents identified rural agricultural buildings, downtown buildings/Mainstreets, railroad features, roads and trails, National Park and Forest Service buildings, schools, and prehistoric archaeological sites, especially rock art sites that also have traditional cultural value to the tribes (Appendices A and B). While these property types figured prominently, the actual list of sites of concern is much longer with everything from tipi rings to log cabins to Post Offices mentioned. In 2001, the non-profit statewide Montana Preservation Alliance

(MPA) also released a list of the six most endangered places that included: Pompeys Pillar; Remnants of Montana's Agricultural Heritage; Many Glacier Hotel; the Broadway Apartment Building in Lewistown; Valley of the Shields Rock Art; and the Broadwater School. More recently in 2002, the MPA endangered list adds: County Churches, the Red Bluff Stage Stop, Religious School Buildings, the Story Mansion in Bozeman, and County Courthouses statewide. Montana properties have also been regularly featured nationwide on the National Trust for Historic Preservation (NTHP) 11 Most Endangered Historic Places, for example: Historic Structures of Glacier National Park (1996); Flathead Indian Reservation (1997); Travelers Rest NHL (1999); and two properties in 2002: Pompeys Pillar and Missouri River Cultural & Sacred Sites (Fort Peck Reservoir). The risks that face these resources are as varied as the properties themselves and characterize those of Montana's cultural resources in general: inappropriate commercial or resource development, urban sprawl, neglected maintenance and repair, mismanagement, changing population needs, lack of public awareness, and – of course – limited financial resources and/or incentives for historic preservation at all levels: federal, tribal, state, local and private.

Thus, the progress in preserving Montana's significant historic, prehistoric, and traditional cultural places is real, but so is the ongoing need to do more. Once these heritage properties are lost, they are lost forever.

A Word About Historic Contexts

In addition to the heritage themes outlined above, *Working Together*, Montana's 1997 State Plan, also proposed a draft contextual framework for classifying the state's cultural resources according to universal human needs of food, safety and expression (*Working Together*, Appendix C). This contextual framework, inspired largely in response to criticisms from a few cultural resource professionals and their clients, failed almost immediately. Few individuals or organizations, including SHPO, have made reference or contributed to the contextual framework since 1997. Its failure can be attributed to a variety of factors, most likely including a lack of interest, a lack of resources (financial and human), and a lack of practical application. The anthropological emphasis of the proposed draft contextual framework was likely foreign to many historians. And at least some who commented on the framework in 1997 noted at that time that it might be an unnecessary layer in the regulatory process or might introduce a level of artificiality (*Working Together*, Appendix B).

Historic contexts nonetheless remain an important element of planning in the identification, recordation, evaluation and treatment of historic, historic archaeological, prehistoric, and traditional cultural properties in Montana. Contexts are designed to be both instructive and utilitarian, that is they can be used to show why historic places were created as well as serve as references for preservation research and planning. At their most fundamental level, as defined in the *Secretary of the Interior's Standards and Guidelines for Archaeology and Historic Preservation* (Federal Register, Vol. 48, No. 190), historic contexts represent historical topics (themes such as those outlined above) within space (location; geography) and time (age; chronology). Familiar to most

researchers, they are simply the setting within which the story of history is understood and told. But when applied in cultural resource management, where they may carry an extra burden of legal and financial consequences, contexts often become more controversial. At their best, contexts provide the background with which to determine which of the myriad of properties in Montana are important and therefore worthy of our best preservation efforts. At their worst, they become arbitrary boxes to force individual sites, buildings, and other cultural properties to conform to a set, preconceived concept of significance – where they must not only prove their value (innocence) but may also be dismissed (found guilty) if the context has not yet been developed fully.

If Montana does not have a fixed historic contextual framework – and the themes presented above could be considered that – it is not without a framework for contextual development. Great strides have been made over the past ten tears to develop and provide historic contexts through ***information management***. Beginning in 1990, and enhanced significantly in the past five years, Montana SHPO has worked diligently in partnership with the University of Montana and other organizations and agencies to develop a system of statewide information organization and retrieval that provides a dynamic basis for the contextual analysis and evaluation of Montana's cultural properties. This system is based on the three primary sources of existing knowledge and research of properties in the state: the Cultural Resource Information System (CRIS), the Cultural Resource Annotated Bibliography System (CRABS), and the Property Eligibility and Effect Registry (PEER). Briefly these can be described as follows:

- ***Cultural Resource Information System (CRIS):*** the statewide inventory of recorded properties, presently encompassing 40,000-plus historic, prehistoric, traditional cultural, as well as paleontological localities, each with an inventory form describing site type, location, age and other information.

- ***Cultural Resource Annotated Bibliography System (CRABS):*** the statewide library of reports describing efforts to identify, research and evaluate Montana's cultural resource properties, currently comprising 25,000 mostly unpublished studies and documents, referenced by location (Township/Range/Section), properties recorded, and keywords for themes, property types and subject matter.

- ***Property Eligibility and Effect Registry (PEER):*** A record of findings of eligibility and effect to cultural resource properties developed in consensus between SHPO and federal or state agencies, also including Montana's approximately 1000 buildings, structures, sites, and districts listed in the National Register of Historic Places.

Together, these sources form an integrated history of the past 50 years of searching for and studying Montana's cultural resource properties in their historic context that exists to be used in both written form and as a database. This ***State Antiquities Database*** allows for the fast and integrated retrieval of the information using such queries as location, type of property, age, as well as themes or research topics in the form of "keywords."

Both comprehensive and continuously updated, the Montana State Antiquities Database is a clearinghouse of information that provides the framework for historic context of the state's cultural resource properties, incorporating all three of the primary contextual elements of theme, space, and time. The knowledge embodied by this information management system of the kinds of properties that exist in Montana, where they are located, and if and why they have been found significant yields the context for determining which properties merit further consideration and/or preservation. Recognizing the importance and the need for this historic context, the enhanced management and sharing of Montana's cultural resource information is one of the five Goals identified in the current State Plan.